

21. (proposed amendment) A fusion implant apparatus for facilitating fusion of bone structures, comprising:

an implant member for positioning between opposed bone structures, the implant member having a ~~first end and a second end~~, and segmentable portion having an outer wall defining an internal cavity for reception of bone growth inducing substances, the outer wall having at least one groove which ~~encircles~~ extends substantially continuously about the outer wall ~~and segments the implant member into~~ forming a juncture between discrete ring-like segments on either side of the groove, wherein the outer wall of the implant member does not outwardly protrude ~~[at the juncture]~~ between the adjacent ring-like segments, each ring-like segment including a plurality of apertures extending therethrough in communication with the internal cavity to permit fusion of the vertebral bone tissue, wherein none of the apertures and ~~any~~ none of the at least one groove intersect each other; and

the first end and/or the second end being dimensioned to engage an end cap.

41. (proposed amendment) A method for fusing vertebrae, comprising the steps of:

providing an implant member for positioning between opposed bone structures, the implant member having a first

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end and a second end dimensioned to engage an end cap, and a segmentable portion having an outer wall defining an internal cavity for reception of bone growth inducing substances, the outer wall having at least one groove which encircles extends substantially continuously about the outer wall and segments the implant member into to define a plurality of discrete ring-like segments, each ring-like segment including a plurality of apertures extending therethrough in communication with the internal cavity to permit fusion of the vertebral bone tissue, wherein none of the apertures and ~~any~~ none of the at least one groove intersect each other;

accessing the vertebral space defined between adjacent vertebral bodies;

determining the desired implant member length for insertion into the space between the adjacent vertebral bodies by using one of the grooves as a cutting and/or measurement guide;

sizing the implant member; and

advancing the implant member within the vertebral space between the adjacent vertebral bodies.

46. (proposed amendment) A fusion implant apparatus for facilitating fusion of bone structures, comprising:

an implant member for positioning between opposed bone structures, the implant member having a first end and a second end, and a segmentable portion having an outer wall defining an internal cavity for reception of bone growth inducing substances, the outer wall having a plurality of

grooves which ~~encircle~~ extend substantially continuously
about the outer wall ~~and segment the implant member into to~~
define a plurality of discrete ring-like segments, each
ring-like segment including a plurality of apertures
extending therethrough in communication with the internal
cavity to permit fusion of the vertebral bone tissue,
wherein none of the apertures intersect the grooves; and

the first end and/or the second end being dimensioned
to engage an end cap.